

UNCLASSIFIED

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HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY

ARGENTINA: MOTHERS' DEMONSTRATIONS INTERRUPTED

SOURCES: Buenos Aires 78 10053; 148, 350

(Entire text [REDACTED])

On January 11, Argentine security officials prevented the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo from demonstrating in front of Government House in Buenos Aires on behalf of disappeared friends and relatives. It was the second consecutive week that the Mothers were physically prevented from carrying out their regular Thursday protest march. On January 4, seven members of the group were temporarily detained, and the following Thursday, 43 were taken into custody. Most, if not all, of those arrested have been released, but those detained on January 11 were warned that subsequent arrest would entail a 30-day jail sentence.

The government's decision to halt demonstrations by the Mothers apparently was prompted by official wariness about the increasing size and intensity of the protests, according to Embassy Buenos Aires. In late December, the Thursday event changed from a somber, orderly procession of a few hundred into a more vociferous and aggressive protest of over a thousand. The trend toward larger, more expressive crowds was unwittingly encouraged by a government official when he promised a Mothers' delegation on December 21 that information on disappeared persons would be provided the following Thursday.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S20000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/PS/PS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part (X) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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